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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents…

THE NEW AVENGERS

A massive super-villain riot at the high-tech maximum security prison known as the Raft brings together the heroes who would become the New Avengers—Captain America, Iron Man, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, and the mysterious powerhouse known as the Sentry. One member of the hero community who aided in the fight refused to join the newly-formed team—Matt Murdock, known throughout Hell's Kitchen as Daredevil.

When Captain America is given information that the Silver Samurai, one of the Raft's escapees, has returned to Japan, he asks Murdock for help. Murdock's personal problems prevent him from aiding the New Avengers, but he offers the services of a mysterious friend—Ronin.

Cap sends Ronin to infiltrate the Clan Yashida, a family of Japanese Yakuza. Ronin discovers that the Hand—a ritualistic cult of ninjas—along with Silver Samurai's old partner Viper, a.k.a. Madame Hydra, is recruiting the Silver Samurai.

Spider-Woman captures Madame Hydra by herself, but the capture is nothing more than a ruse. Spider-Woman is betraying the Avengers and S.H.I.E.L.D. by selling her services to Hydra and another mystery faction.

Ronin is attacked by an army of Hand assassins and followed back to Tony Stark's Osaka penthouse apartment. The Avengers fight the Hand and eventually take the fight back to the fortress Yashida, only to find themselves faced with the Silver Samurai leading a small army of Hand assassins.

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AMERICAN HEROES IN JAPAN.
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?
WE'RE THE AVENGERS, AND WE'RE HERE TO PUT AN END TO THIS BEFORE IT BEGINS.
THERE WILL BE *NO* HAND POWER BASE HERE.
AND *ALL OF YOU* WILL *STAND DOWN!*
I WAS KIDNAPPED, CAPTAIN. DO YOU KNOW THAT? BY *YOUR* COUNTRY.
WHO ARE YOU THAT YOU WOULD DEFEND THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR?
(WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DON'T TALK TO THEM. TAKE THEM!)
(DEFEND THE WALLS OF YOUR HOUSE YASHIDA!)
WHY WAS I PUT IN AMERICAN CUSTODY WITHOUT TRIAL?
WE CAME HERE SPECIFICALLY TO FIND OUT JUST THAT!
BUT THE PEOPLE YOU'RE ASSOCIATING WITH HERE ARE KNOWN TERRORISTS AND ASSASSINS!
DROP YOUR WEAPON, HARADA!
(TAKE THEM, SAMURAI!)
(LEAD!)

HHUUAARRGGHH!

HNN--!

AVENGERS!

NO, STAND BACK!

JEEZ!

I GOT IT.

THE HELL DID YOU JUST--?

CONCUSSION BLAST.

FORTY-NINE MORE COMING IN ON THE--

HOLD ON-- I'M DOING ENVIRONMENT READINGS.

I'M POOPING IN MY TIGHTS.

THERE.

AGH!

FSHAM

I DIDN'T GET TO HIT *ANYTHING* THAT TIME.

SORRY ABOUT THE TREES, HARADA.

WHY DIDN'T YOU DO THAT BEFORE WITH THE KNOCKING THEM ALL DOWN WITH THE BIG BLASTERS ALL AT ONCE?

IT'S FINE.

YOU WERE ALL BOUNCING IN FRONT OF ME.

THAT'S WHY THE HAND ATTACKED US IN CLOSE QUARTERS BEFORE INSTEAD OF LURING US OUT OR SEPARATING US.

EXACTLY. THESE ARE THE WORLD'S GREATEST TRAINED HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTERS. YOU TURNED IT AROUND BY BRINGING THE FIGHT *TO* THEM.

HOLD ON--THREE MORE.

THWAP

THWAP

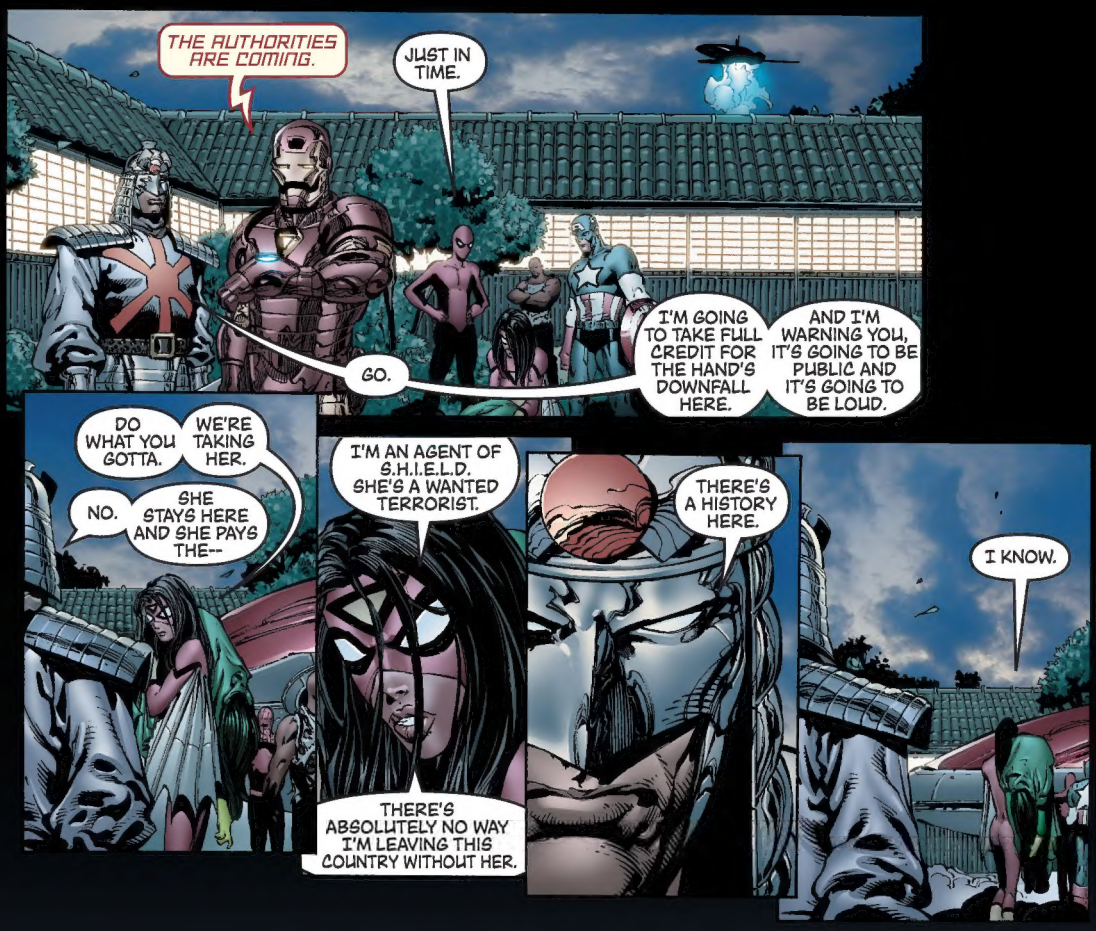
THANK YOU FOR COMING. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN MAKE SOME SENSE OF THIS NOW BECAUSE I--

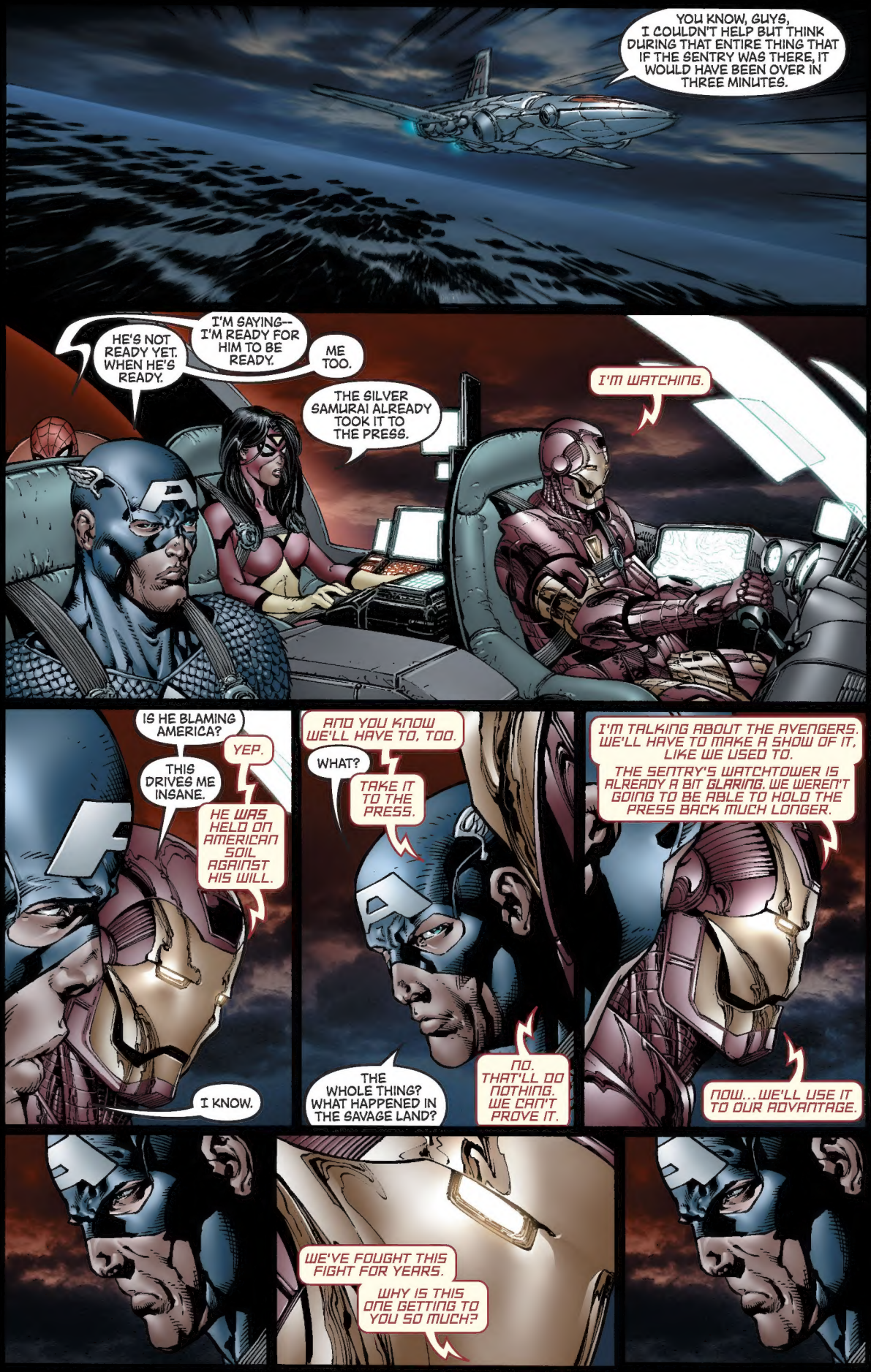
I DON'T EVEN WANT TO *HEAR IT!*

SMACK

WHAT?
HEY!
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE CAME HERE FOR!
MAN, IF WE WOULDN'TA SHOWED UP IN HIS FACE, HE'D BE WEARING A HYDRA ROBE AND DOIN' THE ROBOT.
LUKE, LUKE, LUKE, HARADA WAS ONE OF THE S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES WE COULDN'T MATCH. HE WAS DECLARED DEAD.
FINE. HE'S STILL A PIECE OF GARBAGE--
HE'S--
HE'S SO DEEP IN ALL THIS CRAP OUT HERE...
HE'S NOT LYING ABOUT THIS, AND WE CAN'T JUST ARREST HIM. THINGS ARE MORE COMPLICATED THAN--
COMPLICATED?! I GOT TOSSED OUT OF A SKYSCRAPER OVER THIS PIECE OF CRAP!
DIDN'T YOU GO TO PRISON ONCE? ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
ARE YOU THE SAME MAN YOU WERE THEN?
WE CAME HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO. WHAT HAD HAPPENED--
THAT-- I GUESS THAT ALL DEPENDS ON WHY I WAS KIDNAPPED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT.
YOU WERE NOT KIDNAPPED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH S.H.I.E.L.D., AND WE'RE TRYING TO PIECE IT TOGETHER QUICKLY.
IT WOULD BE A HUGE HELP IF YOU TOLD US EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.

A MONTH AGO, I WENT TO SLEEP IN MY PRIVATE PLANE AND WOKE UP IN A DARK CELL IN THAT RAFT PRISON.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS IN NEW YORK UNTIL THE PRISON RIOT.
I GOT THE HELL OUT OF THERE, ONLY TO INSTANTLY BE PICKED UP BY MEMBERS OF THE HAND, WHO TOLD ME THEY WERE JAPANESE SECRET SERVICE FOR PRIME MINISTER JUNICHIRO KOIZUMI, ESCORTING ME OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
I WAS BROUGHT HERE, TO MY OWN ANCESTRAL HOME...
...SO THE HAND AND HYDRA COULD TAKE TURNS RUBBING MY BACK--TELLING ME HOW THIS IS WHERE IT WILL ALL START FOR THEM IN THIS NEW WORLD POWER STRUGGLE.
AND NOW HERE YOU ALL ARE.
HI, JESSICA.
HYDRA AND THE HAND TOGETHER?
MADAME HYDRA THERE SAID S.H.I.E.L.D. IS ROTTEN AND SO IS HYDRA. IS SHE RIGHT?
LIKE THE MAN SAID--WE'RE STILL PUTTING IT TOGETHER.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO HERE, HARADA?
MY HAND WAS FORCED HERE.
I'M GOING TO NEED TO TAKE MY HOUSE BACK AND PUT SOME SORT OF SPOTLIGHT ON MYSELF TO KEEP MYSELF SAFE.
YOU TELL YOUR MASTERS THAT I'M GOING TO TELL THE WORLD WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME HERE.
AND YOU TELL THEM THAT THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME FROM TURNING THIS HOUSE INTO SOMETHING FOR THEM TO TRULY FEAR IS MY FATHER'S NAME ON THE DOOR.
BUT IF YOUR COUNTRY COMES NEAR ME AGAIN...
IT'S NOT OUR COUNTRY.


THE AUTHORITIES ARE COMING.
JUST IN TIME.
GO.
I'M GOING TO TAKE FULL CREDIT FOR THE HAND'S DOWNFALL HERE.
AND I'M WARNING YOU, IT'S GOING TO BE PUBLIC AND IT'S GOING TO BE LOUD.
DO WHAT YOU GOTTA.
WE'RE TAKING HER.
NO.
SHE STAYS HERE AND SHE PAYS THE--
I'M AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. SHE'S A WANTED TERRORIST.
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I'M LEAVING THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT HER.
THERE'S A HISTORY HERE.
I KNOW.


YOU KNOW, GUYS, I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK DURING THAT ENTIRE THING THAT IF THE SENTRY WAS THERE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER IN THREE MINUTES.
HE'S NOT READY YET. WHEN HE'S READY.
I'M SAYING-- I'M READY FOR HIM TO BE READY.
ME TOO.
THE SILVER SAMURAI ALREADY TOOK IT TO THE PRESS.
I'M WATCHING.
IS HE BLAMING AMERICA?
YEP.
THIS DRIVES ME INSANE.
HE WAS HELD ON AMERICAN SOIL AGAINST HIS WILL.
I KNOW.
AND YOU KNOW WE'LL HAVE TO, TOO.
WHAT?
TAKE IT TO THE PRESS.
THE WHOLE THING? WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SAVAGE LAND?
NO. THAT'LL DO NOTHING. WE CAN'T PROVE IT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE AVENGERS. WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A SHOW OF IT, LIKE WE USED TO.
THE SENTRY'S WATCHTOWER IS ALREADY A BIT GLARING. WE WEREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO HOLD THE PRESS BACK MUCH LONGER.
NOW... WE'LL USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
WE'VE FOUGHT THIS FIGHT FOR YEARS.
WHY IS THIS ONE GETTING TO YOU SO MUCH?

HI--I'M THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, AND YOU ARE?
HELLO?
CAPTAIN AMERICA INVITED ME.
COME ON, WHO ARE YOU?
EXIT
YEAH, I KNOW. WHO *ARE* YOU?
I'M SORRY.
I HAVE NO NAME YOU'D RECOGNIZE.
YOU'RE A FRIEND OF MATT MURDOCK. RIGHT? ME TOO.
HAVE WE MET?
A FRIEND OF MATT MURDOCK WHO BEATS NINJA BUTT.
HMM...
ARE YOU IRON FIST?
YO, MAN, IF IT WAS IRON FIST, DON'T YOU THINK I'D KNOW?
IS IT SHANG CHI?
DOES THAT *SOUND* LIKE SHANG CHI?
THAT'S HOW SHANG CHI SOUNDS WHEN HE IGNORES ME.
LEAVE IT BE.
ARE YOU FOGGY NELSON?
ALAN DERSHOWITZ?
LEAVE IT BE.
JUST WANTED TO TAKE MY MASK OFF AND TAKE A NAP.
I HATE THAT JOKE.
LIKE THERE'S ANYONE LEFT WHO HASN'T SEEN YOU WITHOUT YOUR MASK.

ATCH DOOR
MERGENCY
OVERRIDE

ATCH DOOR
MERGENCY
OVERRIDE

DOOR
VERRI

YOU KNOW WHAT--?

I WANT TO CHECK MY--

DOOR
VERRI

BOOM

AGH!

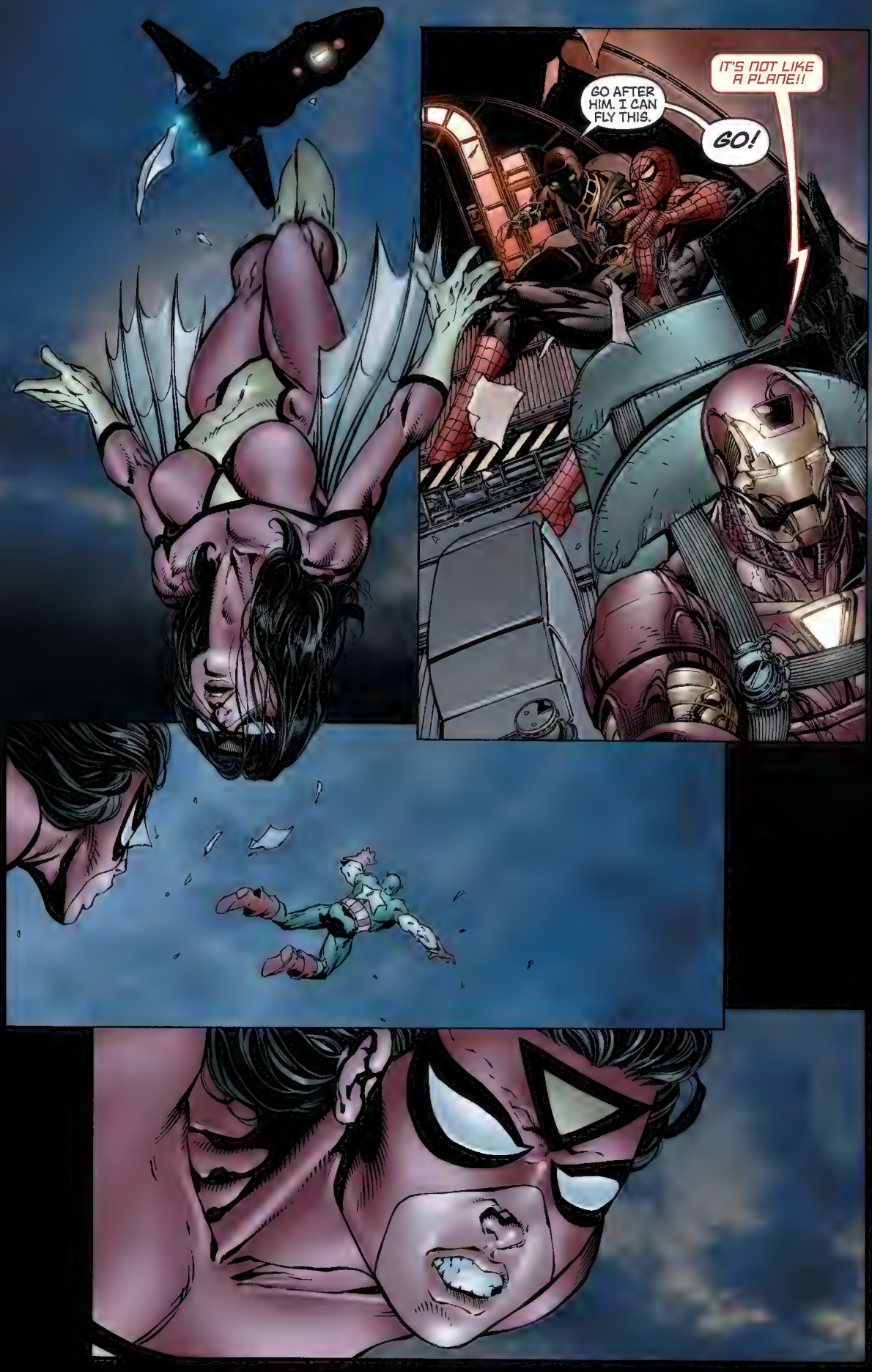
WHOA!

HOLD ON!

NNNOOOO!

ARGH!

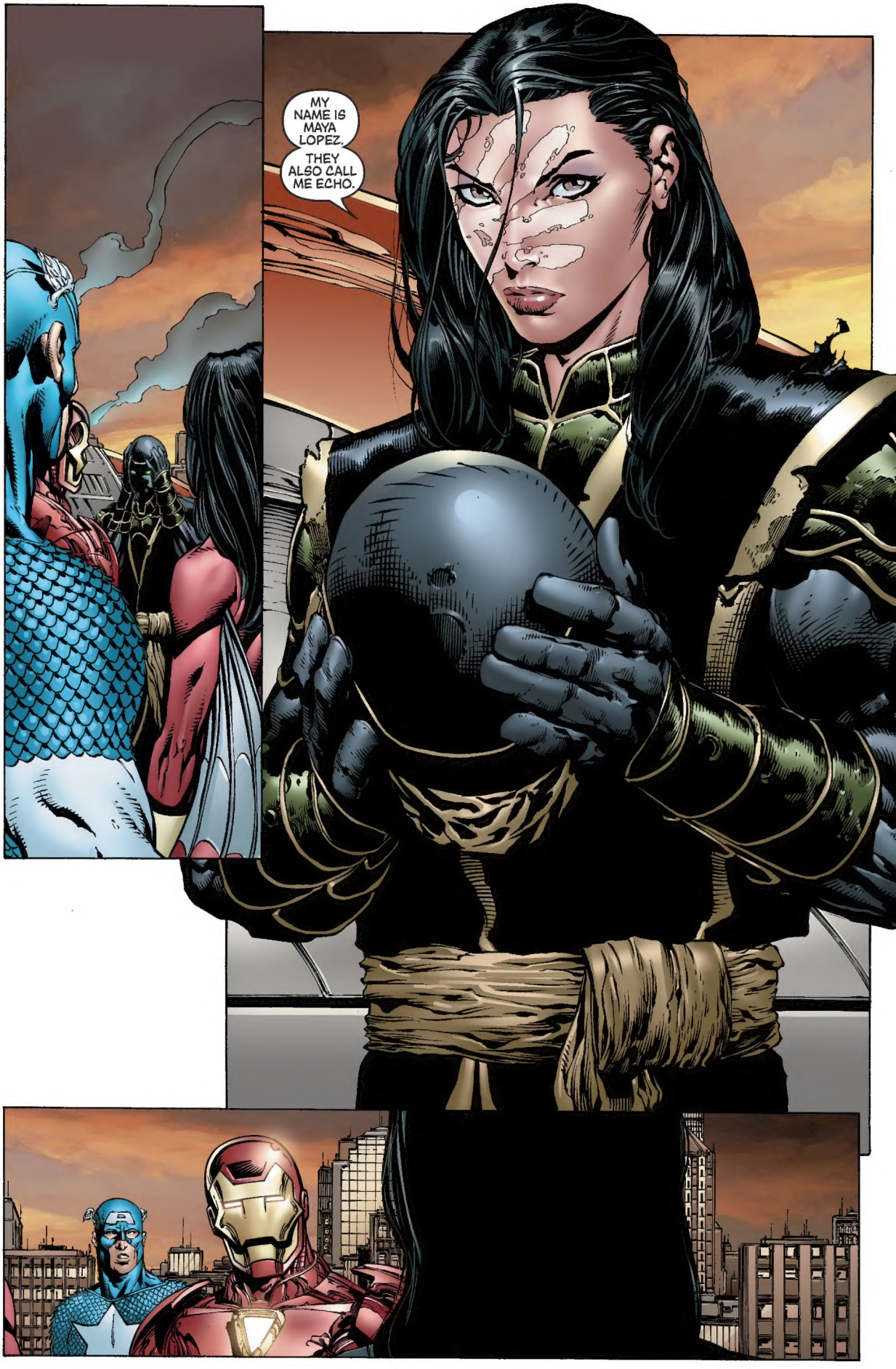
CAP!!


GO AFTER HIM. I CAN FLY THIS.
GO!
IT'S NOT LIKE A PLANE!!

AAAAGGGHHHHH!!!
GOD, PLEASE NO!
PLEASE...
GOT YA.
CLOSE ONE.

MADAME HYDRA'S GONE. THERE'RE NO LIFESIGN READINGS.
I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. THE OVERRIDE HIT AND BEFORE I EVEN KNEW WHAT IT WAS--
ARE YOU OKAY, JARVIS?
QUITE A NIGHT, SIR.
WE'LL GET YOU HOME.
YES, THAT WOULD BE GOOD.
MADAME HYDRA'S DEAD?
NO.
HOW COULD SHE SURVIVE THAT ALL WEBBED UP--?
SHE DID. TRUST ME.
I'M SORRY.
DID SHE HAVE A GIZMO IN HER BOOT OR SOMETHING?
DIDN'T SOMEONE FRISK HER?
YES.

CAPTAIN, I'M TRULY SORRY THIS WENT SO BADLY.
YOU DID NOTHING WRONG.
JUST SO YOU KNOW-- I'LL BE GOING BACK TO JAPAN TO MAKE SURE HARADA DOESN'T BUCKLE UNDER THE PRESSURE.
HE HAS IN THE PAST.
I HEAR ELEKTRA NACHIOS IS RUNNING THE HAND NOW. SHE WILL COME LOOKING FOR HER MEN.
OR FOR REVENGE.
MY SENSEI USED TO SAY THAT THE WAR BETWEEN THE HAND AND THE YASHIDA GOES BACK CENTURIES AND THAT IT WOULDN'T END IN OUR LIFETIME.
BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE. IT HAS TO END.
PLUS, I MADE YOU AND MURDOCK A PROMISE, CAPTAIN, THAT I HAVE NOT LIVED UP TO.
BEFORE HE DIED-- A FRIEND OF OURS SAID THAT THE AVENGERS NEVER FOLLOWED THROUGH ON THINGS--
WE ALWAYS JUMPED FROM ONE DRAMA TO THE NEXT--IT'S JUST THE NATURE OF THIS KIND OF TEAM.
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT HE SAID A LOT. WE DO NEED TO FOLLOW THIS UP.
HEY, IF YOU'RE WILLING TO DO ALL THIS--I'LL FUND IT.
IF YOU NEED THE TEAM--AND YOU WILL--YOU CALL US. IF YOU NEED TO PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER TEAM--
DO YOU NEED FINANCING?
I DON'T NEED MONEY. I HAVE PLENTY.
HOW DID YOU KNOW HOW TO FLY A QUINJET THAT I DESIGNED AND NEVER SHOWED TO ANYONE ELSE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD?
HE WANTS TO KNOW HOW YOU FLEW THE QUINJET.
I SAW IRON MAN FLY IT.
YOU SAW ME FLY IT.
THAT'S WHAT I DO. IF I SEE SOMEONE DO SOMETHING-- I CAN DO IT TOO.
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOUR INTENSE FEELINGS ABOUT JAPAN WHEN WE INITIALLY DISCUSSED IT--
ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO GO THE DISTANCE WITH US ON THIS?
WHO IS THIS?
HE WANTS TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE.


MY NAME IS MAYA LOPEZ,
THEY ALSO CALL ME ECHO.

HEY, CAP...
HEY.
ROUGH NIGHT.
YEAH.
SO...
...WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?
NEXT ISSUE: SECRETS AND LIES